



United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OREGON WATER SCIENCE CENTER
2130 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97201

June 4, 2013

Dr. Thomas Armitage
Science Advisory Board
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460-4164

Dear Dr. Armitage,

I am writing to endorse the nomination of Dr. Allison Aldous to serve on the Science Advisory Board panel to review EPA's draft science synthesis report on the connectivity of streams and wetlands to downstream waters. I know Dr. Aldous through our collaborative research into the influence of geology, landscape, and hydrology on the evolution and function of wetlands in the Cascade Range.

Dr. Aldous has been a leader in the Pacific Northwest in furthering the understanding of the connections between wetlands and hydrologic systems at a range of scales. She has advanced efforts to apply a "whole watershed" approach to resource management whereby aquatic ecosystems are understood in the context of their landscape position as well as their relation to groundwater and surface-water systems. Based on her work, Allison and colleagues at The Nature Conservancy have developed practical methods for applying the best available science to inform resource management. Dr. Aldous has successfully collaborated with scientists and resource managers from a range of federal and state agencies and academic institutions.

Allison's unique knowledge of the relation between physical hydrologic processes and the structure and function of biological systems, coupled with her integrity, objectivity, and pleasant demeanor make her an ideal candidate to serve on your review panel. I strongly encourage you to give her your utmost consideration.

Please don't hesitate to contact me (mgannett@usgs.gov, 503-251-3233) if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Marshall Gannett
Research Hydrologist